

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02874 051151Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CA-01 SCS-06 AID-05 /027 W
-----074684 051228Z /53

R 050912Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2203

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, NP
SUBJECT: PROBLEMS: PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

REF: STATE 138441

1. EMBOFF TALKED WITH MS. HENKER-KOTHES, DOOLEY FOUNDATION
REP IN KATHMANDU, JUNE 2 REGARDING ISSUE RAISED PARA 3 REFTEL.
HENKER-KOTHES PRESENTED CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF
PROBLEM THAN THAT OF DR. CHANEY, AS FOLLOWS: (A) IT IS TRUE
THAT GON HAS SINCE APRIL 4 DECLARED THAT ALL REPEAT ALL VOLUNTARY
ORGANIZATIONS (VOLAGS) WILL HAVE TO PAY ONE PERCENT
DUTY ON DEVELOPMENT GOODS. SUCH REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN
ON BOOKS FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS ACCORDING TO HENKER-
KOTHES, BUT, AS BASNYAT TOLD DEPT., IT WAS HANDLED BETWEEN
GON MINISTERIES -- I.E. LEFT HAND PAID RIGHT. (IN FACT,
SAME THING CONTINUES TO OCCUR WITH BILATERAL ASSISTANCE).
NOW, HOWEVER, VOLAGS WILL HAVE TO PAY -- BUT THIS NOT
DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST DOOLEY.
(BL MORE BASIC IS ISSUE OF DOOLEY "AGREEMENT".
HENKER-KOTHES STATES DOOLEY'S ONLY AGREEMENT WITH
GON IS ONE COVERING HEALTH PROJECT BACK IN MID-SIXTIES.
IT WAS NOT GENERAL AGREEMENT, BUT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO
RIDE, WITH OCCASIONAL LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING ADDED,
SINCE. NOW GON (MIN. OF HEALTH) HAS STATED IT IS TIME TO
PUT HOUSE IN ORDER -- TO GET BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN
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DOOLEY AND GOVERNMENT. HENKER-KOTHES CLEARLY AGREES AND
STATES SHE SO WROTE CHANEY MOPWH AND HALF AGO, URGING
THAT HE COME TO KATHMANDU TO NEGOTIATE TERMS. SHE STATES,
HOWEVER, THAT CHANEY REFUSES TO BELIEVE THAT THINGS HAVE
CHANGED AND TELLS THEM INSTEAD TO KEEP GOING AS IN PAST.
(C) ADDITIONAL PROBLEM CONCERNS VISAS FOR DOOLEY WORKERS.
GON REGULATIONS REQUIRED THAT PEOPLE INTENDING TO WORK

HERE ENTER COUNTRY WITH NON-TOURIST VISA APPROPRIATE TO THEIR PURPOSE. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, DOOLEY LIKE MANY OTHERS HAS BROUGHT IN ITS PEOPLE ON TOURIST VISAS AND MFA HAS THEN ARRANGED CONVERSION. NOW, HOWEVER, MFA IS NO LONGER INVOLVED -- MINISTRY OF HOME AND PANCHAYAT IS ASSUMING DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY AND IS INSISTING ON ENFORCING RULES. PROBLEMS COMPOUNDED FOR DOOLEY BY FACT THAT HOME MINISTRY KNOWS DOOLEY DOES NOT HAVE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH GON, MAKING ITS CASE FOR VISAS THAT MUCH MORE TENUOUS. AGAIN THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO CHANEY WHO AGAIN, ACCORDING TO HENKER-KOTHESE, REFUSES TO ACCEPT CHANGE, TELLING LOCAL STAFF INSTEAD TO "EXERT PRESSURE". HENKER-KOTHESE STATES THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE. SHE SAYS MFA IS WILLING TO HELP BY ALERTING APPROPRIATE NEPALESE EMBASSY THAT DOOLEY WORKERS WILL BE APPLYING FOR VISA, AND SHE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY CHANEY WON'T WORK WITH SYSTEM.

2. COMMENT: CLEARLY WE (DEPT. AND EMBASSY) IN DANGER OF GETTING OURSELVES IN MIDDLE OF IN-HOUSE DISPUTE, SOMETHING PROBABLY BEST AVOIDED PARTICULARLY WHEN SITUATION MAY NOT BE AS SIMPLE AS EITHER SIDE BELIEVES. FOR EXAMPLE, ON VISA ISSUE, EXPERIENCE INDICATES IT MUCH EASIER SAID THAN DONE TO GET NON-TOURIST VISA OUT OF NEPALESE EMBASSY ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN WASHINGTON. MAYBE MFA WILL TAKE ACTION TO CHANGE THIS, BUT THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ON OTHER HAND, WE CAN ALSO TESTIFY THAT GON IS GETTING STRICKIER ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANGING VISAS HERE. IN SHORT, THERE IS NO EASY ANSWER. BASIC ISSUE APPEARS TO BE NATURE OF DOOLEY AGREEMENT WITH GON. IF HENKER-KOTHESE IS CORRECT -- AND SHE PRESUMABLY KNOWS -- THAT THERE IS NO BASIC AGREEMENT, THEN THAT IS ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED. THIS IS POINT DEPT. CAN AND SHOULD MAKE TO CHANEY. OLD AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS THAT WORKED TEN PLUS YEARS AGO ARE FAST DISAPPEARING -- AND DOOLEY FOUNDATION MUST RECOGNIZE THIS. MOREOVER, TACKLING BASIC PROBLEM APPEARS PROVIDE BEST MEANS OF DEAL WITH SUBSIDIARY ISSUES OF DUTIES, VISAS, ETC. ON FACE-TO-FACE BASIS WITH GON. HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA02874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-0277
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780697/aaaadfhf.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f3903d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 138441
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2493136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS: PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS
TAGS: EAID, NP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3903d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014